

PLANS MADE FOR HIGH-WAGE EMPLOYMENT AFL Labor Needs Still Unfilled For Low Rent Housing

AFL Bars Any Halting Of Wage-Rate Raises

WASHINGTON.—In a clear-cut statement of wage policy to Congress, AFL President William Green said "there is no apparent reason" why wage increases negotiated by free collective bargaining "should be halted at this time."

Mr. Green made the statement in reply to a question from the Joint Congressional Committee on the Economic Report which asked: "What do you believe would be the effect of a fourth round of wage increases on the level of unemployment?" Following is the text of Mr. Green's important policy statement in reply:

"There is a large element of fallacy in the whole popular concept of 'rounds' as applied to wage negotiations, insofar as it implies that a more or less sudden and uniform upward impetus is applied to wage levels generally at a certain period each year. Wage negotiations are a continuous and decentralized process, and their results are determined by a couple of factors that vary from time to time, and from industry to industry.

"The term 'would be' in the question seems to imply an element of suspense that does not in fact exist. Wage negotiations and settlements have been taking place all year, practically every day in the year, and the great majority of settlements have involved well-earned and justified wage increases with no adverse effects on employment or the soundness of the economy. As for more recent weeks, a summary by the Bureau of National Affairs of more than 175 wage settlements reported for many different industries during the two-week period ending September 12

reveals that only two cases involved decreases, about 30 cases involved no wage increases but did provide for additional benefits or for later reopening on wages, and in the remaining 145 cases, substantial wage increases ranging up to 30 cents an hour were granted.

"Reduced to essentials, the gist of the opinions expressed by the main body of business 'economists' and editorialists generally seems to be that a 'far-sighted' and 'responsible' trade union policy is one which foregoes a wage increase during a period of prosperity, in order to prevent inflation, and accepts a wage decrease during a period of depression, in order to reduce the cost of production. Needless to say, we are not impressed by the logic of such arguments.

"Insofar as any valid general observation can be made in answer to the question, it can be said that an economy in which wages, living standards and conditions of employment steadily advance and improve is the most conducive to sustained high-level employment. There is no apparent reason why this process of improvement should be halted at this time, and it can only be relied upon to go forward under free collective bargaining, and free collective bargaining is the only means by which this function can be carried out realistically.

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WASHINGTON.—The needs of 8,000,000 AFL members for decent low-cost and low-rent housing are still unmet after more than 10 years of national defense, war and postwar prosperity.

That's why the AFL's 68th convention adopted a policy for a vigorous national housing program next year. Here are the highlights:

Middle Income Housing

"The personal housing problems of the great majority of grade union members in the American Federation of Labor will remain untouched by 1949 public housing legislation. What is needed is legislation to solve the housing needs of so-called 'middle-income' families.

"Forty per cent of American families have incomes falling above \$2,000 and below \$3,750. These families find themselves in a position where they cannot afford the homes being constructed by private builders but at the same time their incomes make them ineligible for any of the public housing units to be constructed under new law.

"The time has come when housing legislation must turn to fit the needs of these families."

15,000,000 Homes Needed

"The woefully inadequate record of private building industry still leaves us with an accumulated shortage of at least 10,000,000 homes and with a minimum requirement of 15,000,000 homes to be built within the next 10 years; 10,000,000 families in the United States are still living under over-

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Invite Truman to Gompers Dinner



Washington.—AFL Secretary-Treasurer George Meany, left, and President William Green leave White House smiling after receiving President Truman's assurance to attend the Samuel Gompers Centenary Memorial Dinner on January 5 in Washington's Hotel Statler "if engagements and work permit."

AFL Pushes Plans To Honor Gompers

WASHINGTON.—AFL leaders pushed ahead with detailed plans for celebrating throughout 1950 the 100th anniversary of the birth of the late Samuel Gompers, founder and first president of the American Federation of Labor.

The centennial observances will begin on January 5 with a dinner at Hotel Statler here which President Truman is expected to attend. Mr. Truman told AFL President William Green and Sec-

retary-Treasurer George Meany that he will be present if possible.

The AFL officials are completing details for this gathering and other events to commemorate the birth of Mr. Gompers on January 27, 1850.

In connection with the year-long observance, state Federations will conduct an organization drive to win one million more members and will hold special Gompers' memorial exercises.

Two AFL Members Win Year at Oxford



Bronxville, N. Y.—John Connors (center), director of the AFL Workers Education Bureau of America, lunches with Roy McLean Ziemann (left), Madison, Wis., and George C. Allen, San Mateo, Calif., before the two leave for a year's study at Ruskin College, Oxford University, in England. The two AFL rank-and-file won labor scholarships established by the British Trades Union Congress and a fund administered by Ernest Bevin, Great Britain's foreign secretary. Connors is a member of the selection committee headed by Dr. Harold Tajjar, president of Sarah Lawrence College. Ziemann, former student at the University of Wisconsin, is a truck driver for the Gateway City Transfer and a member of the Teamsters Union Local 443. Allen, former student at San Francisco State College, is a member of Watchmakers' Union local 101.

RENTS RISE 19 PER CENT WITH GOVERNMENT OKAY

WASHINGTON.—Six months operation of the 1949 housing act resulted in average rent increases of 19 per cent in 350,000 units and decontrol of 2,268,646 other houses, apartments and rooms.

This report from Housing Expediter Tighe E. Woods points up some of the AFL reasons for insisting on continuing rent controls and a housing program to meet the needs of the people.

Woods said he granted 175,000 petitions for rent increases averaging \$6.99 per month between April 1 and October 1. Approval was given to 70 per cent of the requests for rent increases.

Green Outlines Steps To Boost Economic Levels

WASHINGTON.—The American Federation of Labor has submitted to Congress proposals for high-wage full-employment prosperity. The economic statement was sent by AFL President William Green to Chairman Edward J. Hart of the subcommittee on unemployment of the Joint Committee on the Economic Report in answer to questions submitted to Mr. Green.

The statement made these principal points:

1. The current economic situation has materially improved since last summer.

2. Present unemployment involves an appreciable degree of waste of manpower and potential production as well as individual hardship.

3. The aim should be to maintain an economy in which all who are ready, willing and able to work can find the type of employment for which they are best fitted in a relatively short period of time.

4. Long-run prospects of beneficial effects on domestic employment and production as a result of the foreign aid program will hinge on the ultimate realization of its basic aims—the expansion of trade, the elevation of world living standards, and the development of backward areas.

5. An economy in which wages, living standards and conditions of employment steadily advance and improve is the most conducive to sustained high-level employment. There is no apparent reason why this process of improvement should be halted at this time and it can only be relied upon to go forward under free collective bargaining.

6. A national system of unemployment insurance and a national unified system of free public

employment offices should be established.

7. The entire national tax structure should be revised completely to make it conform more exactly to equitable tax principles; there can be no excuse for placing heavy tax burdens on low income groups except in a period of threatened or actual inflation.

8. Government policy regarding labor standards needs to be strengthened, not weakened. Coverage of the wage-hour law should be extended and minimum wages under the Walsh-Healey Public Contracts Act revised upwards promptly.

9. The government should aid areas in distress because of unemployment by promoting full utilization of the areas resources and by encouraging industry to locate there.

The AFL position on the current job and economic situation was outlined in answer to 11 questions submitted by Mr. Green by Representative Hart.

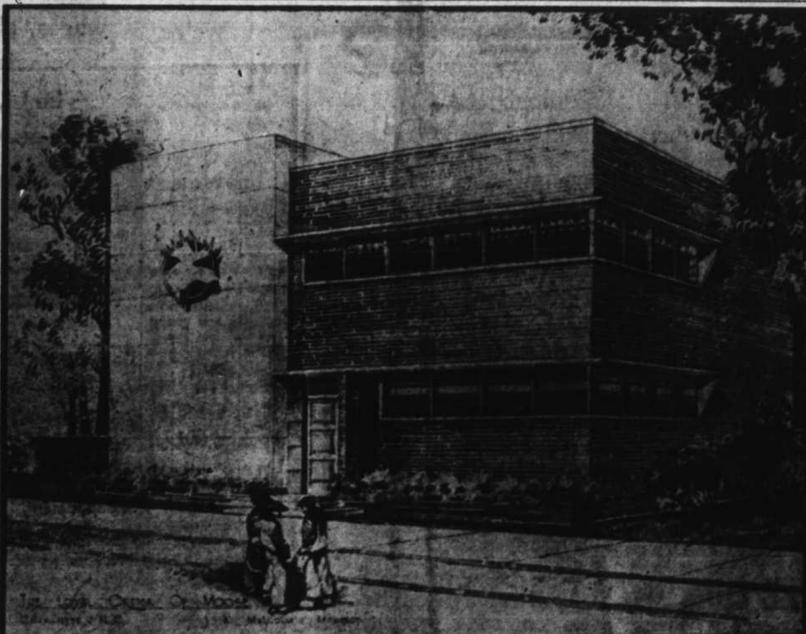
Mr. Hart asked for the written statement since public hearings have been postponed, "because of the improvement in the general economic situation in the past few months." Mr. Green said he hoped the AFL statement "will be of assistance" in preparing the committee's final report to Congress early next year.



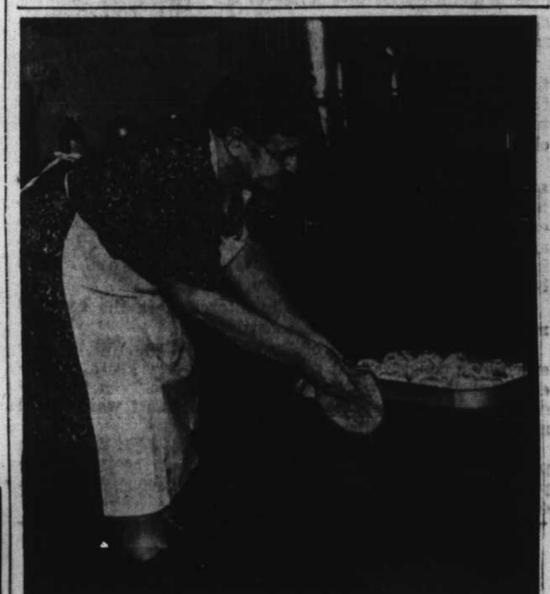
It's hard to look at these healthy, happy faces without having an urge to thank God America has 750,000 men and women who toss into a Loyal Order of Moose fund each month a few pennies so these little children will live to enjoy a healthy and successful life, because their daddy cared enough for them to be a Moose before he died. These children live at Baby Village, Mooseheart.



Here's a typical Moosehaven, Florida, cottage where Moose members and their wives may grow old amid all the comforts of life. Notice there are no stairs to climb, no steps to stumble down. Benevolent members of the Loyal Order of Moose have missed nothing which will add to the contentment of aging members.



Architect's Drawing of New Moose Temple, Charlotte, N. C.



Her day to cook. Women of Moosehaven who have been good cooks all their lives take great pride in showing off their art. They are given regular days in which they supervise the food preparation for those who sit at the table of their cottage. One of the reasons attributed to the health of those at Moosehaven is the fact that all food is home cooked because of the plan worked out by the Loyal Order of Moose.



Judging from the way these old boys are stepping off the fish must be biting in the beautiful St. Johns river which is more than 3 miles wide at this point. The buildings in the background are some of the many built by the Loyal Order of Moose at Moosehaven, Florida, for the comfort of aged members.